

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 124

By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Jerry Vradenburg upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Jerry Vradenburg, who has devoted more than thirty years to the education and instruction of high school students and athletes; on March 17, 2007, Mr. Vradenburg will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools; and

WHEREAS, a Davidson County native, Jerry Vradenburg graduated from East High School in Nashville in 1956 and Belmont University in 1961; a baseball pitcher standout, Mr. Vradenburg's power hitting and high batting average gained him a place in the Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vradenburg took his passion for sports and teaching and embarked on an illustrious career in education and coaching which spanned thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vradenburg worked as a teacher, coach, and athletic director for twenty-eight years at Gallatin High School, where he mentored students, guided athletes to reach their full potential, and helped to build successful stars both in the sports arena and in the classroom; he earned a plethora of coaching honors along the way; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vradenburg started teaching and coaching in 1961 at Kingston Springs Elementary School, where he coached boys and girls basketball; and

WHEREAS, he served at White House High School from 1962 to 1966, standing as the head coach of the boys and girls basketball programs and compiling an impressive 120-83 record; he also served as the assistant football coach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vradenburg arrived on the Gallatin High School sports scene in 1966 and immediately posted winning records. He coached boys and girls basketball there for twenty-six years and posted a record of 559-296; his eighteen-year reign as the boys and girls golf coach culminated in an amazing 536-83 record; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Gallatin, Mr. Vradenburg led his basketball teams to the capture of the 1973 Boys Basketball State Championship, four state tournament appearances, six sub-state appearances, and numerous district and regional titles; as the golf coach, he coached his players to twelve district titles in his last fourteen years, as well as leading them to numerous state qualifiers and gaining the 1991 Boys State Tournament trophy; and

WHEREAS, two of Mr. Vradenburg's former golf students have gone professional; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Coach Vradenburg's impact cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of his students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Vradenburg has deservedly received many accolades and honors, including being named District Coach of the Year twelve times and gaining the Mid-State Coach of the Year in 1973; the TACA Coach of the Year (District 9) award in 1986; the Tennessean Mid-State Coach of the Year award in 1987; the Tennessean District 9AAA Coach of the Year award in 1986; the Metro Nashville Award of Honor, presented by Mayor Richard Fulton, in 1976; the Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator award in 1973; and the *Scholastic Coach* Boys Basketball Coach Gold Award in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Coach Vradenburg was honored with the TSSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1987 and is listed in eighteenth position among the State's winningest coaches with a record at the time of 550-286; he was also inducted into the Belmont University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vradenburg has long been supported by his loving wife, Sylvia, and children, Jerry "Tip" Vradenburg, Jr., and Tina Vradenburg Hopper; and

WHEREAS, for all of his many accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Mr. Jerry Vradenburg has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Vradenburg is a man of true character and commitment, and he exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mentor the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Jerry Vradenburg in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend him for his substantial legacy as a teacher and coach, and offer our thanks for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.